

What is claimed is:

1 1. ~~An image forming apparatus to which an external~~
2 device transmitting image data is to be connected, the
3 image forming apparatus comprising:

4 a detecting unit for detecting whether the
5 external device has been connected to the image forming
6 apparatus;

7 a printing unit; and

8 a control unit for controlling, when the detecting
9 unit detects that the external device has been connected
10 to the image forming apparatus, the printing unit so as to
11 prepare for image forming according to the image data from
12 the external device.

1 2. An image forming apparatus comprising:

2 a detecting unit for detecting an external device,
3 the external device transmitting image data;

4 a power supplying unit for supplying power;

5 a printing unit that is driven by the power from
6 the power supplying unit and forms an image according to
7 the image data from the external device; and

8 a control unit for controlling the power supplying
9 by the power supplying unit according to a detection
10 result from the detecting unit.

1 3. ~~The image forming apparatus according to Claim 2,~~
2 further comprising a connecting unit for connecting the
3 external device to the image forming apparatus, wherein
4 the detecting unit detects whether the external device has
5 been connected to the connecting unit.

1 4. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 2,
2 wherein the printing unit includes:
3 an image forming unit for forming the image on a
4 sheet according to the image data; and
5 a fixing unit for fixing the image on the sheet by
6 applying heat.

1 5. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 4,
2 wherein
3 the control unit controls an amount of the power
4 supplied to the fixing unit so as to change the power
5 amount according to the detection result from the
6 detecting unit.

1 6. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 4,
2 wherein the control unit controls an amount of the power
3 supplied to the fixing unit so as to keep the fixing unit
4 at a first temperature that is lower than a second
5 temperature for fixing the image on the sheet when the
6 external device has not been detected, and at the second

7 ~~temperature when the external device has been detected.~~

1 7. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 2,
2 wherein the control unit controls the power supplying to
3 the printing unit when the detecting unit has detected the
4 external device.

1 8. An image forming apparatus to which an external
2 device transmitting image data is to be connected, the
3 image forming apparatus comprising:

4 a connector for connecting the external device to
5 the image forming apparatus;

6 a detecting unit for detecting whether the
7 external device has been connected to the connector;

8 an image forming unit for forming an image on a
9 sheet according to the image data that has been
10 transmitted from the external device;

11 a fixing unit for fixing the image on the sheet by
12 applying heat, wherein the fixing unit is an electric
13 heater; and

14 a control unit for controlling power supplying to
15 the fixing unit according to a detection result from the
16 detecting unit.

1 9. ~~The image forming apparatus according to Claim 8,~~
2 ~~wherein the external device is a camera for taking a~~

3 picture and generating the image data, the external device
4 including a connecting unit that is to be connected to the
5 connector.

1 10. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 8,
2 further comprising a fee-charging unit for charging a user
3 a fee for forming an image.

1 11. An image forming apparatus to which an external
2 device is to be connected comprising:

3 a fixing unit for fixing an image that has been
4 formed on a sheet by applying heat;

5 a switching unit for putting the fixing unit into
6 a fixing mode, in which the fixing unit is kept at a first
7 temperature for fixing the image on the sheet, and a
8 standby mode, in which the fixing unit stands by and a
9 temperature of the fixing unit is lower than the first
10 temperature;

11 a connector for connecting the external device to
12 the image forming apparatus;

13 an external device detecting unit for detecting
14 whether the external device has been connected to the
15 image forming apparatus via the connector; and

16 a control unit for controlling the switching unit
17 so as to switch the fixing unit from the standby mode to
18 the fixing mode when the external device detecting unit

19 detects that the external device has been connected to the
20 image forming apparatus.

1 12. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 11,
2 wherein the switching unit interrupts a current to the
3 fixing unit in the standby mode.

1 13. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 11,
2 wherein the switching unit keeps the fixing unit at a
3 second temperature, which is lower than the first
4 temperature, in the standby mode.

1 14. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 11,
2 further comprising a judging unit for judging whether an
3 image forming operation has been completed, wherein
4 the control unit controls the switching unit so as
5 to switch the fixing unit from the fixing mode to the
6 standby mode when the external device detecting unit
7 detects that the external device has been separated from
8 the connector and when the judging unit judges that the
9 image forming operation has been completed.

1 15. An image forming apparatus, comprising:
2 a power supplying unit for generating power that
3 is to be supplied to an external device transmitting image
4 data;

5 ~~an interface for connecting the external device to~~
6 the image forming apparatus, wherein the image data from
7 the external device is received via the interface and the
8 power from the power supplying unit is supplied to the
9 external device via the interface;

10 a judging unit for judging whether a charge is to
11 be collected;

12 a printing unit;

13 a control unit for controlling power supplying by
14 the power supplying unit and image forming by the printing
15 unit according to a judging result from the judging unit,
16 wherein the control unit has the printing unit form an
17 image according to the image data from the external device
18 that has been received via the interface.

1 16. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 15,
2 wherein the control unit has the printing unit form the
3 image and has the power supplying unit supply the power
4 when the judging unit judges that the charge is to be
5 collected.

1 17. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 16,
2 further comprising a charge collecting unit for collecting
3 a charge for the image forming and a charge for an amount
4 of the power that has been supplied to the external
5 device.

1 18. ~~The image forming apparatus according to Claim 15,~~
2 further comprising a handling unit into which money is
3 input, the handling unit accumulating the input money,
4 wherein the judging unit judges that the charge is to be
5 collected when money has been input into the handling
6 unit.

1 19. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 18,
2 wherein
3 the handling unit includes first and second
4 handling units, and
5 the control unit permits the image forming when
6 money has been input into the first handling unit and
7 permits the power supplying when money has been input into
8 the second handling unit.

1 20. A power supply apparatus that supplies power to an
2 external device that transmits image data comprising:
3 a power supplying unit for generating the power
4 that is to be supplied to the external device;
5 a connector for connecting the external device to
6 the power supply apparatus, wherein the image data from
7 the external device is received via the connector and the
8 power from the power supplying unit is supplied to the
9 external device via the connector;
10 a printing unit for forming an image according to

11 the image data from the external device that has been
12 received via the connector; and

13 a charge collecting unit for collecting a charge
14 for an amount of the power that has been supplied to the
15 external device.

1 21. A method of supplying power for a power supply
2 apparatus to which an external device is to be connected,
3 the power supply apparatus including a printing unit for
4 receiving image data from the external device and forming
5 an image, the power supply apparatus supplying power to
6 the external device, the power supplying method
7 comprising:

8 a connection detecting step for detecting whether
9 the external device has been connected to the power supply
10 apparatus;

11 a judging step for judging one of that the power
12 is to be supplied to the external device which has been
13 connected to the power supply apparatus and that the image
14 is to be formed according to the image data from the
15 external device;

16 a power supplying step for supplying the power to
17 the external device when the judging step has judged that
18 the power is to be supplied to the external device;

19 an image forming step where the printing unit
20 forms the image when the judging step has judged that the

21 ~~image is to be formed; and~~

22 a charge collecting step for collecting a charge
23 for an amount of the power that has been supplied by the
24 power supply apparatus and a charge for image forming by
25 the printing unit.

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22. The power supplying method according to Claim 21,
2 wherein it is judged that money has been put for one of
3 power supplying and image forming at the judging step.